



The Old Ironsides Report



19 Sep 2003

Volume I Issue 60

Ceremony honors NCO history, encourages new sergeants

**Story and photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
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BAGHDAD, Iraq – New sergeants from the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, were honored in a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Victory Palace in Baghdad Sept. 14.

There was 54 new noncommissioned officer corps inductees recognized during the ceremony. The official party included Col. Dyfied A. Harris, 4th BCT commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, V Corps command sergeant major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush, 1st Armored Division command sergeant major, as well as other command sergeants major from across the 1st Armored Division.

The assembly, the first of its kind in Baghdad, focused on the origin and meaning of the term “noncommissioned officer” and the history surrounding military sergeants.

There was also a tribute to the late Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez, a Vietnam War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, who exemplified all the qualities of an outstanding U.S. Army NCO.

“This ceremony marks these soldiers crossing over into the prestigious NCO Corps,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald E. Smith, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division. “We hope that they can now take the torch and carry it as they continue to do their jobs -- now in leadership positions.”

Smith said that many of the new sergeants will be attending primary leadership development course (PLDC), a required school for NCOs, where they will refine their skills and learn all the doctrine and standards that come with being a leader in the U.S. Army.

“We have all worked all of our tails off out here and we are all glad to have it be over with,” said Sgt. Paul B. Moser, new inductee from B troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division. “The ceremony really kept my interest with great talks from the sergeant majors. I will never forget it.”

These new NCOs, said Smith, are returning to their units highly motivated and ready to bring about positive changes within their respective units.

“The difference between an NCO and just any soldier is that a soldier just sits back and follows instructions. NCOs give instructions and make things happen,” Smith said. “We are here welcoming soldiers who have crossed over the threshold into taking responsibility for other soldiers.”



The official party congratulates new NCO Corps inductees at the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, following the traditional “wetting of the stripes,” where sergeants major from the official party sprayed water on the rank insignia of the new sergeants.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

Heater Safety

Local Iraqi stores sell several different types of heaters. These heaters are not authorized for 1AD soldiers to buy or use. Division is reviewing heater requirements and will provide guidance to all 1st Armored Division soldiers.

DO NOT BUY LOCALLY SOLD HEATERS

NEWS

Isabel's Eye Comes Ashore on N.C. Coast

ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C. (AP) - The large eye of the weakened Hurricane Isabel moved onto North Carolina's Outer Banks on Thursday as the storm pounded the coast with howling wind, stinging rain and waves. Hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses were blacked out. The federal government shut down in the nation's capital. Amtrak halted service south of Washington, dozens of airline flights in the region were canceled and the Washington-area Metro system shut down all subway and bus service. US Airways alone canceled more than 70 flights along the East Coast.

Guerrillas Ambush U.S. Convoy in Iraq

KHALDIYAH, Iraq (AP) - Guerrillas ambushed two U.S. military convoys with remote-controlled bombs in separate attacks Thursday, wounding two Americans and sparking a heavy gunbattle in which a 20-year-old man was shot in the chest and two trucks were destroyed. In the nearby town of Fallujah, witnesses said an American patrol opened fire on guests at a wedding, killing a 14-year-old boy and wounding six people, after mistaking celebratory gunfire for an attack.

AOL Time Warner Drops 'AOL' From Name

NEW YORK (AP) - Acknowledging the failures of the largest merger in U.S. history, the board of AOL Time Warner Inc. voted Thursday to remove the letters "AOL" from the company's name. The largest media and entertainment company in the world will now be called Time Warner Inc., as it was before the merger announced on Jan. 10, 2000 that was billed as a way to jump-start a media revolution by combining "old" and "new" media companies.

U.S. Seeks Missile-Defense for Jets

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration plans to spend about \$100 million to develop an anti-missile system for commercial planes, more than originally discussed, reflecting concern that terrorists might try to use shoulder-fired rockets to shoot down an aircraft. The Homeland Security Department has told defense contractors it is seeking proposals, agency spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said Thursday.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: ***It's Not Over 'Till It's Over***

**The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.
—Ecclesiastes 9:11**

The newspaper headline read, "Jockey Beats Horse Over Finish Line." The jockey beat the pack by 20 lengths and his horse by one length when he was catapulted out of the saddle and over the finish line. His horse, which had tripped, followed soon after. But the victory went to the second-place finisher named Slip Up. A race official said that the jockey "was so far in front that only a freak accident would stop him . . . and that's what happened." We've all experienced life's unexpected happenings. The author of Ecclesiastes took note of them when he said, "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong" (9:11). He reflected on the fact that man is not the master of his destiny, as he so often thinks he is. Life is filled with unpredictable experiences and events. They seem like stones dropped into the gears of human ingenuity. A strong, healthy man drops dead. A rising young athlete contracts a crippling disease. A person of means suddenly loses everything in a bad deal. What can we learn from this? Not to trust our own strength, our own wisdom, or our own skill, but to depend on the Lord who alone knows the end from the beginning.

Living without faith in God is like driving in the fog.

SPORTS

Braves Get 12th Straight Division Title

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves clinched their 12th straight division title Thursday when Philadelphia rallied for a 5-4 victory over the Florida Marlins. The Braves had the day off after beating Montreal 14-4 on Wednesday night, but the players hoped for a chance to win the division on the field. Now, any celebration will be muted when they open a four-game series against the Marlins in Atlanta on Friday.

Oddly Enough...

Hammocks Tangle Aroused Moose in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) -- Itchy to rub antlers and aroused for fall mating season, bull moose have been tangling with hammocks this week. The hammocks are winning. At least three moose have been caught since Sunday and another four have been reported snarled in hammocks or swing set chains over the past two weeks, said Jessie Coltrane, assistant area biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "I get a call every day almost," she said Tuesday on her way back from rescuing the latest victim in a mountainside area on the city's east side. "I took a hammock off a moose on Sunday. I had a call on Monday that I couldn't find. And now today." Coltrane suggested that residents take down their hammocks or tie up swings so that bulls aren't tempted to joust. "We're just asking people to help the moose out," she said. It happens every fall when adult males bang and rub their antlers against objects to remove summer velvet. With hormones starting to rage, the bulls also become more rambunctious as they start following cows and confronting other males.

On This Day In History: ***September 19th 1827***

After a duel turns into an all-out brawl on this day in 1827, Jim Bowie disembowels a banker in Alexandria, Louisiana, with an early version of his famous Bowie knife. The actual inventor of the Bowie knife, however, was probably not Jim Bowie, but rather his equally belligerent brother, Rezin Bowie, who reportedly came up with the design after nearly being killed in a separate, but equally vicious knife fight. Rezin Bowie had invented such a nasty looking weapon that the mere sight of it probably discouraged many would-be robbers and attackers. The perfect knife for close-quarter fighting, the Bowie knife became the weapon of choice for many westerners before the reliable rapid-fire revolver took its place in the post-Civil War period.

Source: historychannel.com